

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claim 9 is pending in the application. Claims 1-8 and 10-118 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The response filed May 14, 2007 elected species 33 (figure 29) and indicated the claims encompassed by the elected species. The Communication states that response was not fully responsive and that the Examiner is unable to clearly decipher how the different figures are related and what is actually going on in this application. To help the Examiner, all but one of the claims is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 9 is amended in order to more clearly define the invention shown in figure 29. Support for a free-space optical fan-out and broadcast interconnect is found in original claim 38 and figure 29. Support for the optical signal emitter of all of the plurality of nodes and the plurality of optical signal receivers of all of the plurality of nodes are substantially coplanar is found in original claim 10 and figure 29. Support for the diverging element of all of the plurality of optics and the light collecting and focusing element of all of the plurality of optics are substantially coplanar is found in original claim 18 and figure 29. Support for a reflective structure optically coupled to the array of optics, wherein the optical signal is reflected by the reflective structure after the optical signal is fanned-out is found in original claim 23 and figure 29.

Claim 9 is encompassed by the elected species because it is not excluded by the elected species. Incidentally, an example of every structural limitation recited in claim 9 is illustrated in figure 29. The specification including the description and drawings is clear and

logical to one of skill in the art of optics at the time it was filed. The specification does indicate to one of skill in the art of optics at the time it was filed how the drawings are related to one another.

The Communication for the first time objects to the drawings. The drawings do comply with the rules. The rule explicitly recites "part"; and is silent as to the numbering of elements, features and/or limitations. In this application, structural elements in different figures use different numeric labels because they are not necessarily the same part. There is no legal basis for limiting the scope of the disclosure. In this application, the same reference number is used to designate the same part. In figure 29, the nodes are labeled 2910 and the lens structures are labeled 2930. In this application, the same reference number is not used to designate different parts. The specification does teach to one of skill in the art of optics at the time it was filed how the figures are related.

Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include acquiescence to statements in the Office Action and/or Communication. In view of the above, all the claims are considered patentable and allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned (at direct line 928-226-1073) for prompt action in the event any issues remain that prevent the allowance of any pending claims.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.136(a) pertaining to patent application processing fees, Applicant requests an extension of time from September 7, 2007 to October 7, 2007 in which to respond to the Communication dated February 14, 2007. A notification of extension of time is filed herewith.

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Customer ID: 38396
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The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3204 of John Bruckner PC.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: Oct 9, '07

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